

## Message Text

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53

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

OMB-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /089 W  
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R 141005Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7197

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 2796

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MARR, MY, TH

SUBJ: MALAYSIA-THAI BORDER COMMITTEE MEETING AND THAI MUSLIM  
SEPARATISTS

REF: KUALA LUMPUR A-69, 5/20/74

1. SUMMARY: JOINT MALAYSIA-THAI BORDER COMMITTEE MEETING  
JUNE 10 PRODUCED GOODWILL BUT LITTLE ELSE. MORE CONCRETE  
MEASURES TO COMBAT COMMUNIST TERRORISTS (CT'S) OPERATING  
ALONG BORDER DO NOT APPEAR TO BE IN OFFING. RE THAI MUSLIM  
SEPARATISTS, GOM MINISTER DATUK ASRI TOLD PAN-MALAY ISLAMIC  
PARTY (PMIP) CONGRESS JUNE 13 THAT SOUTHERN THAI PROVINCES  
SHOULD BE GRANTED AUTONOMY "WITH SPECIFIC CONDITIONS." END  
SUMMARY.

2. JOINT MALAYSIA-THAI BORDER COMMITTEE MET IN K.L. JUNE 10-12.  
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AIR CHIEF MARSHAL DAWEE CHULLASAPYA, IN HIS CAPACITY AS ACTING

SUPREME COMMANDER OF RTG ARMED FORCES AND DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL SECURITY COMMAND, LED THAI DELEGATION; HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER GHAZALI SHAFIE LED MALAYSIAN SIDE. ACCORDING INFORMED SOURCES AND PRESS REPORTAGE, NOTHING CONCRETE WAS ACHIEVED CONCERNING ADDITIONAL MEASURES FOR COMBATTING CT'S IN BORDER AREA. THIS CONFIRMED BY THAI AMBASSADOR PRINCE SVASTI TO DCM JUNE 13.

3. SESSION WAS MARKED BY USUAL CAMARADERIE BETWEEN MALAYSIAN AND THAI MILITARY AND SECURITY SERVICES. DAWEE PRESENTED MEDALS TO GHAZALI SHAFIE AND POSTHUMOUSLY TO INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE TAN SRI ABDUL RAHMAN HASHIM WHO WAS ASSASSINATED ON JUNE 7. ACCORDING TO RELIABLE PRESS SOURCE, GOM PROPOSED, BUT DID NOT PRESS FOR, EXPANSION OF AGREEMENT GOVERNING HOT PURSUIT BY MALAYSIAN FORCES INTO THAI TERRITORY. HOT PURSUIT NOW BASICALLY LIMITED TO BETONG SALIENT WHERE MALAYSIAN POLICE UNITS OPERATE ON THAI SIDE OF BORDER (REFAIRGRAM, PP. 7-8). THIS ISSUE REPORTEDLY DROPPED BECAUSE DAWEE, WHO WILL SHORTLY RELINQUISH HIS GOVT POSTS (IF HE HAS NOT DONE SO ALREADY), WAS NOT PREPARED TO ENTER INTO NEW AGREEMENTS ON BEHALF OF RTG.

4. RE THAI MUSLIM SEPARATISM, PMIP PRESIDENT AND GOM MINISTER FOR LAND DEVELOPMENT AND SPECIAL FUNCTIONS (ISLAMIC AFFAIRS) DATUK ASRI TOLD PMIP CONGRESS JUNE 13 THAT "THE THAI SECESSIONIST GROUP'S STRUGGLE FOR AUTONOMY WITH SPECIFIC CONDITIONS IS REASONABLE." (NOTE: "CONDITIONS" WERE NOT SPECIFIED BY ASRI.) ASRI ASSERTED THAT CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF THAI SEPARATIST MOVEMENT COMPOUNDS DIFFICULTY OF COMBATTING CT'S IN SOUTHERN THAILAND AND THAT IT PROPER FOR PMIP, AS AN ISLAMIC PARTY, TO URGE THAT SEPARATIST PROBLEM BE RESOLVED. HE WENT ON: "THE MUSLIM PROBLEM IN THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES AND IN SOUTHERN THAILAND IS STILL THE SAME, AND THERE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ANY EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM TO ENSURE THAT THERE WILL BE PEACE AND FREEDOM." HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT MALAYSIA SUBSCRIBED TO POLICY OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN AFFAIRS OF PHILIPPINES AND THAILAND AS THEY ARE BOTH MEMBERS OF ASEAN.

5. COMMENT: RECENTLY-CONCLUDED BORDER COMMITTEE MEETING SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN THE NORM FOR THESE SEMI-ANNUAL GET-TOGETHERS AND, AS NOTED ABOVE, NO PROGRESS WAS MADE TO RESOLVE BORDER ISSUES OR TO STEP UP  
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CAMPAIGN AGAINST CT'S IN BORDER AREA. WITH REGARD TO ASRI'S REMARKS ON THAI MUSLIM SEPARATISM, WE ARE PUZZLED WHY HE WENT SO FAR IN DEPARTING FROM STANDARD GOM LINE THAT SEPARATIST MOVEMENT IS INTERNAL MATTER FOR RTG TO HANDLE. NOTWITHSTANDING GOM'S ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS WITH REGARD TO SOUTHERN PHILIPPINE PROBLEM, ASRI'S STATEMENTS AS A GOVT MINISTER AND LEADER IN PRIME MINISTER RAZAK'S NATIONAL FRONT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CREATE PROBLEMS

WITH RTG IN ASEAN CONTEXT AND TARNISH CORDIAL THOUGH  
NOT PARTICULARLY CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN K.L. AND BANGKOK.  
THAI REACTIONS IN THIS REGARD WILL BE INTERESTING.

6. CONSIDERING DOMESTIC POLITICAL FACTORS, IT IS LIKELY  
THAT ASRI FELT COMPELLED TO SPEAK OUT ON THAI MUSLIM  
PROBLEM WHICH IS POTENT ISSUE FOR PMIP ON RELIGIOUS  
GROUNDS AND ALSO BECAUSE PARTY IS STRONGEST IN KELANTAN  
WHERE SYMPATHY FOR SEPARATISTS RUNS HIGH. ASRI  
ALSO HAS PROBLEMS WITH RECALCITRANT ELEMENTS WITHIN  
PMIP, IN KELANTAN AND OTHER AREAS, WHO ARE UNHAPPY  
WITH PMIP'S INCLUSION IN NATIONAL FRONT AND WHO INSIST  
ON PUSHING RELIGIOUS ISSUES TO THE FORE. LASTLY, PMIP  
HAS BEEN ARGUING FOR MORE PROMINENT ROLE IN GOM'S  
PARTICIPATION IN PAN-ISLAMIC AFFAIRS, THUS ASRI'S STATE-  
MENTS MAY IN PART BE STAGE-SETTING FOR ISLAMIC FOREIGN  
MINISTERS' CONFERENCE BEGINNING JUNE 21.  
UNDERHILL

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